



Fall Influenza Drive

SHOT TALK

The time to receive your influenza shot is quickly approaching. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will begin administering flu vaccine in mid-October at senior nutrition centers, and senior programs throughout the city. The SAMHD anticipates offering the flu vaccine in SAMHD clinics no later than the end of October. It is important to receive your flu shot in October, November, or December so that you are adequately protected during the peak flu season. December through March are peak months for influenza activity in which a flu shot can help to reduce the chances of contracting influenza or flu-related illnesses such as pneumonia.

However, with the uncertainties in the amount of vaccine available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that only persons in high-risk priority groups receive the vaccine until October 24, 2005. This would include the following people:

- ✓ Persons aged ≥ 65 years
- ✓ Residents of long-term care facilities
- ✓ Persons aged 2-64 years with comorbid conditions
- ✓ Children aged 6-23 months
- ✓ Pregnant women
- ✓ Health-care personnel who provide direct patient care, and
- ✓ Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged <6 months.

After October 24, anyone who wants to prevent the flu is encouraged to get their flu shot. The cost of a flu shot for the 2005-2006 season is \$23.00. Patients who have Medicare, Medicaid, CareLink, Community First, or CHIP and present a valid insurance card at the time of the vaccination are eligible to receive a flu shot at no cost. For information on flu

clinic locations you can call 207-8750.

Vaccine Availability Update

Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

On June 30, 2005, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) voted to recommend newly licensed booster tetanus,

diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines (Tdap) to help reduce the number of cases of pertussis among adolescents. This cleared the way for Tdap to be included on the VFC Program. As noted in the June Shot Talk, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently licensed two Tdap vaccines to be given as single dose boosters in the United States -- BOOSTRIX® (GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals) which is indicated for use in adolescents 10--18 years of age, and ADACEL™ (Sanofi Pasteur) for persons 11--64 years of age. The ACIP did not make Tdap recommendations for adult use.

The SAMHD will follow the ACIP recommendations and target the routine use of the Tdap vaccine to adolescents 11-18 years of age in place of the currently used tetanus-diphtheria (TD) booster. The SAMHD VFC Program anticipates the Tdap vaccine to be in stock by October. Additional information will be forthcoming soon in a Blast Fax to all VFC-enrolled providers regarding when to order for your VFC eligible patients and specific administration guidelines.

All existing inventories of TD vaccine should be administered before placing orders for the Tdap product. Please do not let doses of TD expire or go to waste. For additional information on the Tdap vaccine please see the following web site: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/pr/pr_tdap_jun2005.htm

Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Menactra TM)

Currently, the SAMHD VFC Program is in the process of assembling an adequate supply of the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4-Menactra) to begin distribution. Because of the heavy demand for MCV4, orders and shipments are being limited at this time. The VFC Program anticipates being able to start distributing MCV4 within the next month. More information will be forthcoming regarding orders and administration guidelines.

Influenza Vaccine

Many leading national health organization are once again recommending influenza vaccine for your infants and toddlers 6--23 months of age, high-risk medical condition patients 2-18 years of age, and close household contacts and caregivers of those under 2 years of age. The VFC Program will make this vaccine available again for your VFC-eligible patients. In addition, adolescent females who are pregnant during the influenza season (typically November--March) should receive the flu vaccine.

The availability of influenza vaccine through the VFC Program for the 2005--06 season was communicated to all VFC-enrolled providers through a

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Blast Fax on September 30. VFC providers that anticipate providing flu vaccine to their VFC-eligible patients this season should start ordering the number of doses that will be needed for your patients throughout the 2005-2006 flu season.

Please contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868 if you have additional questions regarding this information.

Children Displaced by Hurricane Katrina Will Receive Free Vaccinations

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced on September 16, 2005 that all children from birth to 18 years old displaced by Hurricane Katrina are eligible to receive free vaccines through the federally-run Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), regardless of whether they are staying at shelters, hotels, or with family and friends and regardless of previous health insurance coverage status. Managed by HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the VFC helps families of children who may not otherwise have access to vaccines by providing free vaccines to doctors who serve them.

"Children displaced by Hurricane Katrina have been through so much," Secretary Leavitt said. "But with each passing day there is hope for a brighter future for them, and we plan on doing everything possible to make sure their future is healthy. That's why we are taking this step today to make sure children have access to immunizations through the Vaccines for Children Program."

CDC's immunization recommendations for children displaced by Hurricane Katrina are aimed at keeping them up-to-date on routine vaccinations and protecting them from disease outbreaks in large, crowded group settings. The nation's childhood immunization coverage rates continue at record high levels, so there is no immediate threat of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks among these children.

HHS considers all children from birth to 18 years old who have been displaced by the effects of Hurricane Katrina to effectively be uninsured, because they are not expected to have access to medical records or proof of insurance. Taking this action allows doctors, clinics, and health departments who provide childhood vaccinations to immunize these children using VFC vaccine.

The Vaccines for Children program is an entitlement program (a right granted by law) for eligible children, age 18 and below, known as section 1928 of the Social Security Act. VFC became operational Oct. 1, 1994. Through the VFC program, public purchased vaccine is available at no charge to enrolled public and private health care providers for eligible children. More information about the VFC program can be obtained at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/>.

CDC's Interim Immunization Recommendations for Individuals Displaced by Hurricane Katrina can be accessed at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/vaccine-displaced.asp>. Complete information on the full range of accelerated benefits available from HHS for hurricane victims is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/katrina>.

City Emergency Preparedness Tested By Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

On September 2, 2005 the City of San Antonio began preparations to receive thousands of people displaced hurricane Katrina. Many city departments were, and still are, involved in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Over the Labor Day Holiday city staff was called upon to receive, triage, and gather intake information as evacuees were flown into Kelly USA and settled into temporary shelters. San Antonio Metropolitan Health District staff worked around the clock to accomplish this enormous undertaking. During the first week the SAMHD, in cooperation with University Health System, University Health Science Center School of Nursing, Centro Med, Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Center, Baptist Health Center School of Nursing, and community medical volunteers, administered over 10,000 doses of vaccine to protect the victims of Katrina. The SAMHD continues to provide immunization services at Kelly USA for shelter residents.

On September 21, 2005 San Antonio became a safe haven for Texas Gulf coast residents fleeing Hurricane Rita. SAMHD staff, in conjunction with community partners, various city departments, and volunteer groups opened shelters across the city to meet the needs of our fellow Texans.

Calling Student Artists!

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District would like to invite schools to take part in the 2nd Annual Immunization Art Contest. Children and adolescents from K-12 are encouraged to participate in this initiative. Winning artwork will be featured in an immunization calendar that will serve as an outreach tool for educating parents, health care professionals, and the community at large regarding the importance of timely immunizations. The deadline for submission of all entries will be October 14, 2005. For further information please contact Danelle Dismuke at 207-4015.

City Holiday Calendar

Veteran's Day - November 11, 2005

***Thanksgiving Day & Day After
November 24 & 25, 2005***



QA/AFIX Site Visits Benefit Provider Offices

We are nearing the end of the year, and immunization coverage levels are continuing to rise for VFC provider offices. Have you had your QA/AFIX visit this year? The Quality Assurance/AFIX Team is still scheduling Quality Assurance/VFC site visits at Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider locations throughout the area. Since the beginning of the year, the team has conducted 40 site visits. The mission of conducting site visits is to ensure that enrolled VFC providers are immunizing patients according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines and adhering to VFC Program guidelines.

The members of the QA/AFIX team would like to thank the following providers and their staffs for participating in the QA/AFIX site visit process during this past quarter:

Dr. Ostrower, Dr. Deleon, Dr. Howard H. Galarneau Jr., University Family Health Center-S.W., Dr. Montemayor, Blanco Rd. Medical Clinic, San Antonio A thru Z Pediatrics, I.H.-10 DeZavala Rd. Family Clinic, All Star Pediatrics, Children's Health Center, Leon Springs Pediatrics, Pediatric Medicine P.A., Stone Oak Pediatrics, Clinica Medica Internacional, Metropolitan Methodist Hospital, Pinkston Family Practice, PA, ABCD Pediatrics, Valley Clinic, Holy Cross-Marbach, Dr. Do-New Braunfels, Bandera Family Health Care, Child Care Associates, Dr. Al-Shalchi, Northwest Pediatric Associates, School Based Health Center-East Central, University Family Health Center-North, Infant's Shelter, Children's Shelter of San Antonio, Universal City Family Practice, San Antonio Institute of Medicine, University Family Health Center-S.E., University Center for Community Health, South San Antonio Medical Associates, Dr. Cantu, Tejas Pediatrics, Dr. G. Scott Cuming, San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Medical, Dr. Luna, Trevino Family Clinic, Health Texas Medical Group-S. New Braunfels, Westlakes Primary Care, P.A., San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Houston St., Dr. Jalomo, Lytle Medical Clinic, Alamo Heights Pediatrics, Family Clinics of San Antonio, La Paloma CentroMed., San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Main, South San Antonio Family Practice, Dr. George, San Antonio Pediatric Associates, P.A.-San Saba, South Alamo Pediatric Clinic, Dr. Tabet, Dr. Garcia, and Dr. Lira.

Congratulations are in order for the following providers that achieved outstanding immunization coverage rates during the past quarter: Dr. Ostrower (100%), Dr. Montemayor (100%), Pediatric Medicine, P.A. (100%), Stone Oak Pediatrics (100%), ABCD Pediatrics (100%), University Family Health Center-North (100%), University Family Health Center-S.E. (100%), Tejas Pediatrics (100%), Dr. Jalomo (100%), San Antonio Pediatric Associates (100%), South Alamo Pediatric Clinic (100%), All Star Pediatrics (96%), Northwest Pediatric Associates (96%), San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Medical Rd. (95%), Alamo Heights Pediatrics (95%), Office of Dr. G. Scott Cuming (94%), Leon Springs Pediatrics (92%), San Antonio Pediatric Associates-Houston St. (92%), Child Care Associates (91%), South San Antonio Family Practice (91%), Trevino Family Clinic (90%), San Antonio Pediatric Associates-San Saba (85%), University Family Health Center-S.W. (83%), Blanco Rd. Medical Clinic (83%), and Children's Health Center (82%). These facilities worked proactively to ensure that over 80% of the children seen by their practices are up-to-date on their required immunizations of 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3Hep B, and 1 Var by 24 months of age. All of these facilities invested substantial efforts towards improving children's immunization coverage levels within their practices. JOB WELL DONE!! Keep up the great work!!

Special congratulations go t to Dr. Ostrower, Dr. Montemayor, Pediatric Medicine, P.A., Stone Oak Pediatrics, ABCD Pediatrics, University Family Health Center-North, University Family Health Center-S.E., Tejas Pediatrics, Dr. Jalomo, and South Alamo Pediatric Clinic. These facilities surpassed the National Immunization Program (NIP) goal of 90% immunization coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, receiving a perfect score of 100%. In fact, this is the fourth consecutive year that Dr. Montemayor has received a perfect score. It's also the second consecutive year that Dr. Ostrower, Stone Oak Pediatrics, and University S.E. have received a perfect score!



Dr. Ostrower



Dr. Montemayor and Staff



Dr. Garcia del Villar – San Antonio Pediatric Associates



ABCD Pediatrics



Pediatric Medicine, P.A.

We would like to once again Thank our VFC providers for their outstanding dedication and commitment toward keeping the children in our community healthy. Your continued participation in our VFC Program is sincerely appreciated, we commend you all for the excellent work you do!!

VFC providers are encouraged to use the Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA) to simplify keeping patient's immunization status up-to-date. The software is free of charge and the QA/AFIX staff is available to assist with training and installation. For more information or to schedule a site visit, please contact Kenya Wilson at 207-3974.

New Vaccine Studies Launched DAPTACEL®

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis bacteria are serious and contagious diseases that can be prevented through timely vaccinations. It is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) that all children be fully vaccinated against these diseases within 4-6 years of age.

SAMHD will be contacting the eligible children who were previously enrolled in the Daptacel®/ Pentacel™ study in 2001. The study consists of two visits, blood



University Family Health Center North



Dr. Jalomo and Staff

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will be conducting an investigational research study of Daptacel®. Daptacel® is a diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. The objective of this study is to determine its safety and immunogenicity when administered as a 5th dose to 4-6 year olds. The

samples will be obtained and follow-up telephone calls will be conducted. Parent or guardian must be willing to comply with all study guidelines. Subjects participating in the study will be financially compensated and offered recommended childhood vaccinations free of charge. For more information please



1 East



contact the SAMHD at (210) 207-3968 or (210) 207-3965.

HAVRIX

The SAMHD has also begun recruitment for a Hepatitis A research study. The objective of the study is to evaluate the immunogenicity of administering the Hepatitis A vaccine at an early age as well as with other childhood vaccines. Up to 18% of reported Hepatitis A cases occur among children in day-care, their household contacts or employees in day-care centers. It continues to be one of the most frequently reported vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccination of children at a younger age would help to decrease the number of Hepatitis A cases.

Eligible clients include healthy children, 12-13 months of age. The study consists of five visits over a twenty-month period and blood samples will be obtained from all enrolled subjects. Parent or guardian must be willing to comply with all study guidelines. Subjects participating in the study will be financially compensated and offered recommended childhood immunizations free of charge. For more information please contact the SAMHD at (210) 207-3968 or (210) 207-3965.

RSV Program Begins

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will be conducting a program for the prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections in infants and young children less than two years of age. RSV is a very common virus that causes mild cold-like symptoms. It can cause serious respiratory infections in young babies, especially those born prematurely, who have heart or lung disease, or who are immunocompromised. Each year up to 125,000 infants are hospitalized due to severe RSV disease and about 2,500 of these infants die.

Becoming infected with RSV does not establish any immunity to the virus. Therefore, children can become infected again. The drug Synagis® was developed to prevent these children from developing severe infections and complications. Synagis® is given by injection once a month through the RSV season (October thru March). It has been proven to prevent serious disease and reduce hospitalization due to RSV infection. Please contact your pediatrician to determine if your child will require this vaccine. The program will begin in October 2005 and continue thru March 2006. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the SAMHD at (210) 207-3968 or (210) 207-3965.

Current Issues In Immunizations

The National Immunization Program is pleased to present a teleconference program titled



“Current Issues in Immunization.” This program is designed to provide clinicians with the most up-to-date information on immunization. The session will be held October 13, 2005 at 12:00pm Eastern Time. The one-hour session will focus on emerging immunization topics. The October 13, 2005 session topics will focus on the **2005 - 2006 Influenza Recommendations**.

This program will combine a telephone audio conference with simultaneous online visual content. It will allow for a question and answer segment both by telephone and via the Internet. Internet access and a separate phone line are needed to participate. Graphics will be available to download as a Power Point file after the presentations. To register go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ed/ciinc/default.htm>.

Continuing education credits will be offered for various professions based on 1 hour of instruction. Information will be provided in the course of the session. After the session, participants can go to CDC's online learning system at www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN Online/ to register for and obtain CE credit. The course number for this program is EV0378.

DSHS

Immunization Search

Record



The Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch, is implementing a temporary call center to conduct searches for immunization histories for children in the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama immunization registries. This call center will provide direct assistance to physicians and other health-care providers, schools, health departments, and parents of children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The call center will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday initially and will adjust these hours based on customer demand. The call center will have a user ID and password for the Louisiana Registry and will contact Mississippi and Alabama for information on a case-by-case basis. Requests for histories will be processed in the order received and records will be mailed or faxed. Records may not be available for all children.

To obtain records call the Immunization Branch toll free at (800) 252-9152. The following information is required to perform the client search:

- Child's Full Name
- Child's Date of Birth
- Child's Gender
- Parent/Guardian's Full Name

Schools, physicians or other providers, and health departments may request multiple client records. A search will be performed and the immunization record(s), if found, will be mailed or faxed as requested. If no immunization record is found, a notice will be mailed or faxed.

To fax a request schools, providers, or health departments may download the Request to Search – List form from the www.ImmunizeTexas.com website or may call to request the form. The form should be completed with information about the client(s) as listed above.

Please note that the Louisiana registry's Immunization Record states, "This record is not for School, DayCare or Headstart entry." The Louisiana registry has another form for those purposes in Louisiana, however, the form **is** approved for entry and attendance in schools and child-care facilities in Texas. A message stating this will be added to the records provided through the call center. For more information you can contact DSHS at 1 (800) 252-9152.



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Immunization Resource Sites

SAMHD: www.sanantonio.gov/health

DSHS: www.dshs.state.tx.us

CDC: www.cdc.gov/nip

IAC: www.immunize.org

National Network for Immunization Information:

www.immunizationinfo.org/

Allied Vaccine Group: www.vaccine.org

Institute for Vaccine Safety (IVS):

www.vaccinesafety.edu

National Network of Immunization Nurses and

Associates (NNINA):

www.nursingworld.org/innpower/nnina.htm

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR):

www.cdc.gov/mmwr

Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute: www.sabin.org

Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF): www.hepb.org

National Meningitis Association: www.nmaus.org

Vaccine Information for the Public and Health

Professionals: www.vaccineinformation.org

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID):

www.nfid.org